

THE COMMONWEALTH.

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D. E. STAINBACK, EDITOR.

THE TARIFF.

The only measure that the Radical leaders were willing to advocate under their own name alone before the people, was the existing tariff, a method of extorting money from the people that is nothing more nor less than legalized robbery. Sitting as a Liberal Convention, Mr. Moore, Mr. Mott, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Young and the rest of them said not a word about the tariff; whether on reaching the tariff their liberalism became exhausted as did the power of their judiciary in the Kirk war may never be known.

But whatever the cause, the fact is that the only thing the Radical party sends before the State upon its own unaided merits and by its own unaided efforts, is its resolution endorsing and advocating the continuance of the present war tariff, that for more than twenty years has cursed the country. In everything else they first put themselves forward as liberals, but when it came to the tariff question they seemed to conclude for once to go it alone, thinking, perhaps, the brat was so unmistakably Radical in every feature that it was idle to attempt to call it by another name or dress it up in any other clothes.

Now let us see what this tariff is that according to Messrs. Mott, Moore, Ike Young, Speers, O'Hara, Harris and the rest of them has been such a blessing to North Carolina for the last twenty-two years.

What is a tariff—to begin with? A tariff is a schedule or table of the taxes levied by a government on the merchandise that comes into ports from foreign countries, or that goes out from its ports to other countries. To collect these taxes, Custom Houses, as they are called, are established at every port and at other points along the coast, watch is kept that goods be not landed without payment of the required duties or taxes.

And what is a protective tariff? A tariff for protection is a system of import duties or taxes so arranged as to prevent the importation of goods or merchandise. This is accomplished by requiring such goods to pay very high duties or taxes for the privilege of entering our markets. The object is by adding the high duty or tax to the cost of manufacture to prevent the foreign manufacturer from coming into our markets, so as to break down competition and give the home manufacturer a free swing to sell at any price he may choose. Competition as we know while it increases trade diminishes prices, and "protection" destroys competition.

Of course so long as there is a government the people who live under it must be taxed to provide money for its support, and to a tariff therefore that looks only to the support of the government and that is just and equal in its operations there can be no objection, for so long as we have a government we must be taxed.

But of all the unjust and unequal legislation ever enacted by congress, the existing tariff is the most unjust and the most unequal, and of all the causes which have operated to prevent the material progress of the South and to keep the people poor, this tariff is and has been most potent for its burdens fall most heavily upon us who are agricultural people.

The object of this tariff is not solely or even mainly to raise revenue for the support of the government, but to favor or "protect," as it is called, certain manufacturing industries of the country, that is to say, to benefit one class of people at the expense of another—the manufacturers for instance at the expense of the farmers. Its effect is to take money out of the pockets of the Southern farmers and put it in the pockets of Northern manufacturers, the South being agricultural and the North manufacturing in its great interest.

And just here the Democratic party steps in and says that money taken from the people not for the support of the government, but for the benefit of one class of men at the expense of another is not taxation but robbery, and that robbery has been going on for twenty years.

The Radical party says, however, it is a good thing and ought to continue to "enable the labor and capital employed in our great industries to compete fairly in our own markets with the labor and capital of foreign producers."

The business of the people of North

Carolina, as it is well known, does not constitute any appreciable part of "the great industries of the country" that compete with foreign labor. On the other hand, we have to buy and pay for the products of those industries. The "great industries" are all at the North, and the plain English of Radical platform is, that the South being agricultural in its business ought to continue to be daily taxed under the tariff for "protection," as it is called, to foster and build up the North and its "great industries." They daily, by means of this tariff, take money from our pockets to put in theirs—for every thing we use is affected by the tariff.

But although they take this money under the forms of law, the Democratic party says it is downright robbery, for all that; and says further that the law that legalizes it ought at once to be wiped from the Statute Book.

On the other hand, the Radical party says it is a good thing to make us Southern people pay for building up Northern manufactures, and that the robbery ought to go on. This is just the difference between the two parties.

But some may say, the tariff is a tax only on imported goods and that we use goods manufactured in the United States. Suppose we do, it is none the less robbery; for if it were not for the tariff the foreign manufacturer would come in and supply us with goods at lower prices and the Northern manufacturers would either have to quit business or sell at the same prices. The difference between the prices we would have to pay for foreign manufacturers without a tariff and what we have to pay home manufacturers with a tariff is what we are robbed of; it is the amount the tariff takes from us and gives to the Northern manufacturer to enable him, as the Radical North Carolina platform says, "to compete fairly in our own markets with the labor and capital of foreign producers."

And why, pray, should people who are not manufacturers, compete with other manufacturers, at home or abroad? What right has the government to tax one industry to support another industry?

A government has a right to collect taxes from everybody for its support, but it has no right to be interfering with trade by taxing one industry to help another; or to tax one man to help another no matter how needy he may be.

Article six, section one of the Constitution, deprives persons, who have been convicted of felonies or other crimes made infamous by the laws of the State, of the right of suffrage. This clause of the law has now been in force for about seven years, and it would not be an extravagant estimate to say that two thousand persons have been convicted of infamous crimes since that time. Then it will be seen that a good many persons scattered over this State are not entitled to vote.

The election to take place in November will mark an important era in the destiny of this State. If the Democrats are defeated, all that we have gained in the last ten years will be lost; if they are successful, the State will go forward in the march of happiness, peace, prosperity, and rapid development.

While we feel quite sure that we will carry the State by at least twenty thousand majority, we are not to be idle. The greater thrashing you give an enemy the greater will be his reluctance to renew the fight. Hence our desire to pool our full strength. Then it is our duty to see that no man votes who is not entitled to do so.

We are in favor of free elections in the strictest sense of the word, and, if it was not for using an expression which the Republicans have made infamous by the meaning which they have given it by their acts, we would say that we were in favor of a fair count, we want every man to vote who by the laws of the land is entitled to do so and who is so disposed—and we want him to vote for whom he pleases. But we don't want to see any boys vote. This class who are twenty-one on election day and not quite eighteen when the roads are to be worked and taxes are to be paid, and we don't want any person who has been convicted of an infamous crime since the constitutional convention of 1875, to vote.

Therefore we suggest to the chairmen of the different county Executive Committees to get from the records of their county the name of every person who has been convicted of an infamous crime since the time referred to. Have a list of the same published, and see that the chairman of every Township Committee has one. Then, when this class of persons come forward to vote or register,

challenges can be made.

It might be well for the chairmen of the county committees to furnish the chairman of the State committee with these lists. Then he could have a full list published, embracing the name of every person who has been convicted of an infamous crime in the State. These lists could be furnished to the different counties at a small cost.

We throw out this suggestion for what it is worth; if it is worth the time to adopt such a plan, we trust it may be done.

The Commissioners of Halifax county have ordered a new registration. Therefore it will be necessary for every man in the county to register before he can vote. This is absolutely necessary. Don't rely upon what somebody tells you about it. There is no dodging the fact. To vote, you must register. Don't delay the matter. Call on the Registrar at once and see that your name is put on his book. Then look over and find out whether your neighbor is registered or not. If he is not, see that he does register.

This is an important battle which we are about to fight. We can't fight unless we have the proper weapons. The ballot is the only weapon we can use. We can't use this unless we register. So don't fail to do so at once.

Nursing mothers gain strength by using Brown's Iron Bitters. It acts like a charm in restoring to health and strength overstrained nature.

TO THE DEMOCRATIC VOTERS OF HALIFAX COUNTY:

You are hereby notified to meet in convention, in the town of Halifax, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of October, to take in consideration the propriety of making county nominations, and to nominate the different county officers, should you decide to make nominations.

The voters of the different townships will meet at their respective places of meeting in their townships on Saturday, the 23rd day of September, for the purpose of electing delegates to the convention.

Each township is entitled to cast one vote for every twenty-five voters, and one vote for fractional parts of twenty-five voters equal to and over fifteen.

A full and free expression of opinion is desired, and a large attendance is necessary.

J. M. GRIZZARD, Chairman County Dem. Ex. Com.

TO THE DEMOCRATIC VOTERS OF CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP:

The chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of the county has called a convention to meet in Halifax on the 3rd day of October, therefore you are requested to meet at Pittman's Hall in Scotland Neck, on Saturday, the 23rd day of September, 1882, at 2 o'clock, for the purpose of electing delegates to said convention.

A full attendance is desired. Come everybody.

W. A. DUNN, Chairman Township Dem. Ex. Com.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

P. E. WELL, Practical Boot-Maker

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A Cordial Invitation.

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At B. Allsbrook's Old Stand, Scotland Neck, N. C.

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500 YDS. SPOOL COTTON at 5 CTS

HARNESSES, SADDLES, &c.

A full line of CONFECTIONERIES.

FLOUR, SUGAR,

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STAPLE GOODS,

CHEAP FOR CASH.

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Agri. Lime. Nothing to equal it for the price.

Kainit Acid, Phosphate and Chemicals &c. All at lowest market prices.

I also have in daily operation a first-class Crist Mill. All who may patronize me I will guarantee satisfaction.

In cotton season I also run a first-class

Gin with the capacity of ginning 17 bales cotton a day, and keep on hand Bagging and Ties for my patrons at the lowest market prices. All who may favor me with their patronage I will promise to do in the future as in the past, to every endeavor to give satisfaction.

Thanking my friends for their liberal patronage in the past, I hope by fair dealing and close attention to business, to merit a continuance of the same, and make many new and valuable customers. I am also prepared to furnish responsible parties on time.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

FROM THE SAME OLD STAND.

"Competition is the Life of Trade."

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I TAKE this method of informing my

Friends, Present and Former Patrons and the public generally, that I am still at the SAME OLD STAND at GREENWOOD, where I am still doing all kinds of work usually done in a Country Shop, and at as Low Figures as any Good Workman will do it.

VEHICLES CONSTANTLY ON HAND, MADE TO ORDER.

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Very respectfully,

J. V. SAVAGE,

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